GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2016
Attainment of Criticality
Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the second reactor of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project attained criticality on 10 July, 2016 as reported in the media;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether at every stage, various tests were conducted and the technical parameters verified as mandated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)whether once the reactor starts generating 400 MW of power is likely to be connected to the grid and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Yes, Sir.

(b)The second unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project KKNPP-2 (1000 MW) attained first criticality (start of controlled self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction in the Reactor for the first time) at 20:56 hours on July 10, 2016.

(c)Yes, Sir. After criticality, tests are conducted at low power and at various power levels. The tests conducted at low power are primarily core physics tests to ascertain the technical parameters related to the reactor physics and establish reference data. The reactor power is subsequently raised in steps to 50%, 75%, 90% and full power (1000 MW) and at each of these stages, various tests to assess the safety, performance and meeting of design intent and technical specifications of various equipment and systems in dynamic conditions are carried out. At each stage, the results are submitted to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for their review and accord of clearance for the next stage.

(d)Yes, Sir. The unit is planned to be connected to the grid at about 400 MW. The power level will subsequently be raised in steps to 50%, 75%, 90% and full power in line with the clearances of AERB.

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